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Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the sixty-second session

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community

Letter dated 9 August 2007 from the representatives of Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, we have the honour to request the inclusion in the agenda of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly of a supplementary item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum (annex I) and a draft resolution (annex II) are attached to this letter.

We should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) S. A. **Rachkov**
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to the United Nations

(*Signed*) B. S. **Aitimova**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan
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(*Signed*) V. I. **Churkin**
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(*Signed*) S. M. **Aslov**
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Annex I

[Original: Russian]

Explanatory memorandum

The Treaty on the Establishment of the Eurasian Economic Community (EURASEC) was signed on 10 October 2000 by the Presidents of the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan. The Republic of Uzbekistan joined the Community in 2006 at the same time as the Organization of Central Asian Cooperation became part of EURASEC.

The Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine have the status of observer States in EURASEC.

The Treaty on the Establishment of the Eurasian Economic Community affirms the commitment of the member States of the Community to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the generally recognized principles and norms of international law.

The Community's objectives are to:

- guarantee the free trade regime and establish a single customs tariff and a single system of non-tariff regulation measures,
- establish common regulations for trade in goods and services and their access to domestic markets,
- introduce a unified currency-regulation and currency-control procedure,
- draw up and implement joint programmes for socio-economic development,
- create equal conditions for industrial and entrepreneurial activities,
- form a common transport-services market and a single transport system,
- form a common energy market,
- create equal conditions for the access of foreign investments to the markets of member States,
- granting citizens of the States of the Community equal rights to receive an education and medical assistance in its territory,
- align closer and harmonize national legislation and also ensure cooperation among the legal systems of EURASEC States in order to establish a common legal space.

The Inter-State Council, which is composed of the heads of State and Government of the Community countries, is the highest executive body of EURASEC.

The Integration Committee is the Community's standing administrative body. It is made up of the deputy heads of Government of the EURASEC countries.

The Community Secretariat, located in Moscow (the Russian Federation) and Almaty (Kazakhstan), has the tasks of organizing and providing the information and

technical support for the work of the Inter-State Council and the Integration Committee.

The Secretariat is headed by the EURASEC Secretary-General, who is appointed by the Inter-State Council. Grigory Alekseevich Rapota has occupied this post since October 2001.

The Commission of Permanent Representatives, who are appointed by the EURASEC heads of State, carries out the Community's work during the intervals between meetings of the Integration Committee and ensures cooperation between the Community and the corresponding agencies, departments and organizations of the member countries.

The EURASEC Inter-Parliamentary Assembly is made up of parliamentarians delegated by the parliaments of Community countries. It considers the questions of harmonizing (aligning, unifying) national legislation and bringing it into accordance with agreements concluded within the framework of EURASEC in order to achieve the Community's objectives.

The Community Court ensures the uniform implementation by the parties to the Treaty on the Establishment of the Eurasian Economic Community and the other agreements in force within the framework of the Community as well as decisions taken by its bodies and also considers economic disputes between EURASEC member States.

The free trade regime is in operation in the territory of EURASEC without exception or restriction.

At a meeting held in 2006 in Sochi, the Community heads of State adopted a decision on the formation of a customs union composed of the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation. Other EURASEC countries will join the customs union when they are ready to do so. The formation of an economic and currency union is a long-term objective.

A visa-free travel regime is in operation: citizens of EURASEC member States, in accordance with an intergovernmental agreement, have the right, regardless of their place of permanent residence, to enter, leave, pass through in transit, travel within or stay in the territory of EURASEC States without a visa.

The near-term priority areas in EURASEC activities also include:

- Transport: the establishment of a single transport space, solving the problem of single rates, increasing the flow of goods, simplifying customs procedures, completion of internal State procedures under agreements signed and the creation of transnational transport and shipping firms;
- Energy: the joint exploitation of hydro-energy complexes in Central Asia and solving the problem of electrical energy supply and water use, achieving a single energy balance, construction of hydroelectric power stations (the question of building hydroelectric power stations in Kyrgyzia and Tajikistan is currently under consideration in practical terms);
- Labour migration: the social protection of migrants, the establishment of an effective system for regulating and controlling the migration of labour resources, combating the criminality that accompanies migration and solving problems related to the payment of taxes by migrants and employers;

- Agro-industrial complex: coordinating the agricultural policy of the EURASEC States, forming a single foodstuffs market of the Community countries, reducing expenditures on the transport, storage, and sale of agricultural products, and establishing new market institutions in this area (insurance, banking, leasing, stock market and other institutions).

EURASEC has had observer status in the United Nations General Assembly since 2003.

The Community cooperates closely with the United Nations system in most of the basic areas of its activities. Its main partners are the European Economic Commission (EEC) of the United Nations, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries is one of the most important areas of the Community's cooperation with the United Nations.

The prospects for joint work with the United Nations system in the environmental, humanitarian and migration fields also appear to hold much promise.

A memorandum of understanding between EURASEC and UNDP was signed in September 2006 in order to strengthen the institutional framework for cooperation between the Community and United Nations structures. An agreement on cooperation between the EURASEC Inter-Parliamentary Assembly and the United Nations European Economic Commission was concluded on 25 January 2007.

In this way, favourable initial conditions for mutually advantageous cooperation between the United Nations and EURASEC have been created. Nevertheless, it is obvious that, in order to strengthen the practical component of this cooperation, ensure its synergistic effect enabling both organizations to attain common objectives in the socio-economic field, particularly the timely achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed objectives, there is a need to place relations between the Community and the United Nations on a more systematic basis. This is precisely the purpose of the General Assembly resolution, the draft of which has also been attached.

Annex II

[Original: Russian]

Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan: draft resolution

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 58/84 of 9 December 2003, in which it granted the Eurasian Economic Community (EURASEC) observer status,

Recalling also that one of the purposes of the United Nations is to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural and humanitarian nature,

Recalling further the Articles of the Charter of the United Nations that encourage activities through regional cooperation for the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Taking note of the fact that the membership of EURASEC includes countries with economies in transition, and recalling in this regard its resolution 61/210 of 20 December 2006, in which it invited the United Nations system to enhance dialogue with and increase support to the regional and subregional cooperation organizations whose membership includes countries with economies in transition and whose efforts include assisting their members to fully integrate into the world economy,

Noting with satisfaction that the Treaty on the Establishment of the Eurasian Economic Community reaffirms the commitment of the member States of the Community to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and also to the generally accepted principles and norms of international law,

Convinced that the strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system and EURASEC contributes to the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

1. *Welcomes* the activities of EURASEC aimed at strengthening regional cooperation in various fields, such as trade and economic development, the establishment of a customs union, energy, transport, agriculture and agro-industry, the regulation of migration, banking and finance, communications, education, health care and pharmaceuticals, environmental protection and natural disaster risk reduction, or in any other related area;

2. *Emphasizes* the importance of strengthening dialogue, cooperation and coordination between the United Nations system and EURASEC, and invites the Secretary-General of the United Nations to conduct to this end regular consultations with the Secretary-General of EURASEC, using for this purpose the relevant inter-institutional forums and formats, including the annual consultations between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and heads of regional organizations;

3. *Invites* the specialized agencies and other organizations, programmes and funds of the United Nations system, and also the Bretton Woods institutions, to cooperate with EURASEC for the purpose of joint implementation of programmes to achieve their goals, and in this regard recommends that their leaders enter into consultations with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of EURASEC;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community".